

Nurseries, York,

22/9 mo 1873

My dear friend  
Dr. A. Gray

I am in rec<sup>t</sup> of thy  
favour of Sept. 2.

What distresses me most of all  
is the information of Harland  
Coultas's barbarity in regard to  
*Cassiope hypnoides*. It is a per-  
pet disgrace to anyone professing  
to be a botanist & I believe  
"a professor" to have done, or even  
endangered such a thing. No  
such act ever receives anything  
at my hands except reprehension  
protest, & not the slightest idea  
of any such thing (so far as I  
can remember) was ever made

known to me. When, years ago,  
I first began to send out Col-  
lectors it is possible that this  
advice may never have occur-  
red to me; from the thought of  
danger not having done so: but  
I can hardly think it was so.

Do not trouble to get any  
more Ptychidanthus at pres-  
ent. We will first try if we  
can grow it: for we lost all  
that Harland Coultas sent.

A few (40 or 50?) of Lycopodium  
dendroideum, if sent with, 100  
be welcome. We can do well  
with 200 or perhaps 300 of  
Polygonatum giganteum. I do  
not think we could get more  
than this of the Drosera, but will  
do the best I can. 100 or 200 Pul-

-Monarda virginica would be  
desirable & 50 Eclipta Marianna  
Is there any chance for  
Lithosp hirtum & L. Canadense.  
Both are desirable, & also Silene  
virginica. I only mention these  
in case opportunity that is fa-  
vourable occurs.

Personally I feel doubtful  
about the specific distinctness  
of Aquil. chrysantha & caerulea!  
Though I suspect that our good  
friends at New regard me  
rather as a "splitter" than other-  
wise! My range of knowledge  
from their cultivation is as yet  
however but limited.

Yours very sincerely  
W. B. Backhouse